

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 NIC-01 EUR-25 IO-14 /153 W

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R 152216Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3778

INFO AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 6216

E O 11652 NA

TAGS PINS CO

SUBJ: POLIT PRISONERS

REF STATE 150955 BOGOTA 3068

1. THERE ARE NO KNOWN POLIT PRISONERS IN COLOMBIA. THE NATION'S POLIT/JURIDICAL SYSTEM IS AMONG THE MOST OPEN IN LA; UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS IT IS UNLIKELY THAT PERSONS WOULD BE IMPRISONED FOR POLIT BELIEFS OR THAT SUCH IMPRISONMENT COULD BE CONCEALED.

2. SOME PERSONS ARE FACING TRIAL AS A RESULT OF GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES. THEY ARE NOT HOWEVER, ON TRIAL FOR THEIR POLIT BELIEFS BUT FOR SPECIFIC FELONIES SUCH AS KIDNAPPING, MURDER OR ROBBERY.

3. COLOMBIA HAS A LONG TRADITION OF POLIT TOLERATION. THE COMMUNIST PARTY, FOR EXAMPLE IS LEGAL HERE AND WAS A PARTICIPANT IN THE APRIL ELECTIONS. THE LIFTING OF THE STATE OF SIEGE, LATE IN 73, FURTHER STRENGTHENED CIVIL LIBERTIES IN COLOMBIA.

4. CONSIDERING BOTH THE ABSENCE OF POLIT PRISONERS AND THE PRIDE THAT COLOMBIANS TAKE IN THEIR POLIT INSTITUTIONS WE BELIEVE THAT AN APPROACH ON THIS QUESTION WOULD BE POORLY RECEIVED BY THE
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GOC. IT IS ALSO PROBABLE THAT THE FORNMIN WOULD REFER THE MATTER

TO THE NEW ADMIN, DUE TO TAKE OFFICE ON AUG 7, THUS MAKING IT
ONE OF OUR FIRST ITEMS OF BUSINESS WITH THE NEW FORNMIN STAFF.
VAKY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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